

முதலமைச்சர் திரு. மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் அவர்கள் தனது கடிதத்தில் கேட்டுக் கொண்டுள்ளார்.

மேற்குவங்க முதலமைச்சர் செல்வி மமதா பானர்ஜி, தெலங்கானா முதலமைச்சர் திரு. ரேவந்த் ரெட்டி, தெலங்கான முன்னாள் முதலமைச்சர் திரு. சந்திரசேகர ராவ், ஒடிசா முன்னாள் முதலமைச்சர் திரு. நவீன் பட்நாயக், கேரள முதலமைச்சர் திரு. பினராயி விஜயன், கர்நாடக முதலமைச்சர் திரு. சித்தராமையா, கர்நாடகா துணை முதலமைச்சர் திரு. சிவகுமார், பஞ்சாப் முதலமைச்சர் திரு.பகவத்மான், ஆந்திரப்பிரதேச முதலமைச்சர் திரு. சந்திரபாபு நாயுடு மற்றும் ஆந்திரப்பிரதேச மாநில முன்னாள் முதலமைச்சர் திரு. ஜெகன்மோகன் ரெட்டி ஆகியோருக்கு எழுதியுள்ள கடிதத்தில் குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளார்.

இக்கடிதம் மேலும், மேற்குறிப்பிட்ட 7 மாநிலங்களைச் சேர்ந்த பல்வேறு முக்கியக் கட்சித் தலைவர்களுக்கும் அனுப்பப்பட்டுள்ளது.

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**Text of D.O. Letter of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin to the various State Chief Ministers and former Chief Ministers regarding delimitation exercise by the Union Government**

The essence of India's democracy rests on its federal character – a system that gives each State its rightful voice while honoring our sacred unity as one Nation. Today, I write with urgency as this balance faces a profound threat that could permanently diminish the influence of States like ours in shaping our nation's future.

India conducted delimitation exercises in 1952, 1963, and 1973. However, in 1976, the process was frozen through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment until the first census after 2000, to encourage population control. As population disparities continued to persist, the 84<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment further extended the freeze until the first census after 2026. With the 2021 Census delayed, the delimitation exercise - originally expected after the 2031 Census - could now take place much earlier than anticipated. This acceleration gives us very little time to protect our interests. The question is no longer if delimitation will happen, but when and whether it will honor the contributions of States that have advanced our national priorities.

Post 2026, the situation may become drastically skewed if the exercise is conducted as per the next census population. Those States which controlled their population and achieved superior governance indicators will face an unjust punishment - reduced representation in the very forum where national policies are determined. Once implemented, this democratic imbalance could persist for decades, leaving our states with diminished capacity to advocate our people's interests, secure rightful resources and influence critical national decisions. For the record, we are not against delimitation itself. What we oppose is its weaponization against States that fulfilled their national duties, thus punishing progress.

The delimitation math is simple and sobering. Reports suggest that the delimitation exercise is being considered based on population, with two potential approaches. In the first case, the existing 543 seats could be redistributed among the states, and in the second case, the total number of seats could be increased beyond 800. In both scenarios, all the states that have successfully implemented population control measures stand to lose significantly if the exercise is based on post 2026 population. We should not be thus penalized for effectively controlling population growth and upholding national development goals.

Despite the gravity of this issue, the Union Government has provided neither clarity nor any concrete commitment to address our concerns. Their representatives have vaguely stated that delimitation would follow a "pro-rata" basis, without explaining the base used for such pro-rata calculation as well as raising an empty rhetoric that no State will face a decrease in its seats. When the very foundation of our democracy is at stake, can we accept such vague assurances? When our States' futures hang in the balance, do we not deserve transparent dialogue?

In this regard, I had convened an All-Party Meeting on 5-3-2025 with political parties from across the spectrum. All of us stood united in defense of our constitutional rights, demanding a fair delimitation. With a shared commitment to protecting our parliamentary representation, we resolved to form a Joint Action Committee and reach out to all States across India which potentially face the same threat.

I believe this issue transcends individual State concerns - it strikes at the heart of our federal principles. Together, we must examine the constitutional, legal, and political dimensions of this challenge. We must jointly develop alternatives that preserve our current representation in percentage terms. Only through a collaborative analysis and an unified advocacy, can we hope to secure a delimitation process that honors our role in nation building without compromising our current level of

representation in percentage terms. In this regard, I now reach out to you with two specific requests:

- (i) Your formal consent to join a Joint Action Committee (JAC) comprising of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka in the South to West Bengal and Odisha in the east, Punjab in the north.
- (ii) The nomination of one senior representative from your party who can serve on the JAC and help coordinate our unified strategy.

As an initial step towards unified action, I propose an inaugural meeting in Chennai on March 22, 2025, to chart our collective course forward. This moment demands leadership and collaboration, rising above political differences and standing up for our collective good. What is at stake is not any abstract principle - it is our States' ability to secure rightful resources for development, to influence crucial policies on education and healthcare and to ensure our economic priorities receive due attention in the national agenda. Let us stand together not as separate political entities but as protectors of our people's future.

I await your response and look forward to your presence in Chennai on March 22, 2025.

In solidarity and resolve,

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**வெளியீடு: இயக்குநர், செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத்துறை, சென்னை-9**

அரசின் செய்திகளை உடனுக்குடன் தெரிந்துகொள்ள:

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